

SENATE No. 878

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PRESENTED BY:

Richard T. Moore

To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in General Court assembled:

The undersigned legislators and/or citizens respectfully petition for the passage of the accompanying bill:

An Act to Improve the Delivery of Health Care.

PETITION OF:

NAME:	DISTRICT/ADDRESS:
Richard T. Moore	Worcester and Norfolk
Susan C. Tucker	Second Essex and Middlesex
John W. Scibak	2nd Hampshire
Kenneth J. Donnelly	Fourth Middlesex
Jennifer M. Callahan	18th Worcester

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

In the Year Two Thousand and Nine

AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

SECTION 1. Chapter 111 of the General Laws is hereby amended by inserting after section 53G the following section:—

Section 53H.

As used in this section the following words shall, unless the context clearly requires otherwise, have the following meanings:—

“Checklist of Care”, steps to be taken by a team of healthcare providers to decrease patient harm during a given procedure.

“Medical error”, the failure of medical management of a planned action to be completed as intended or the use of a wrong plan to achieve an outcome.

The Department of Public Health shall promulgate regulations for the development and implementation of checklists of care that hospitals shall use to prevent medical errors and reduce healthcare-associated infection rates. The department may require hospitals to report annually

13 on their use of the checklists. The department shall promulgate regulations to enforce the
14 provisions of this section no later than December 31, 2010.